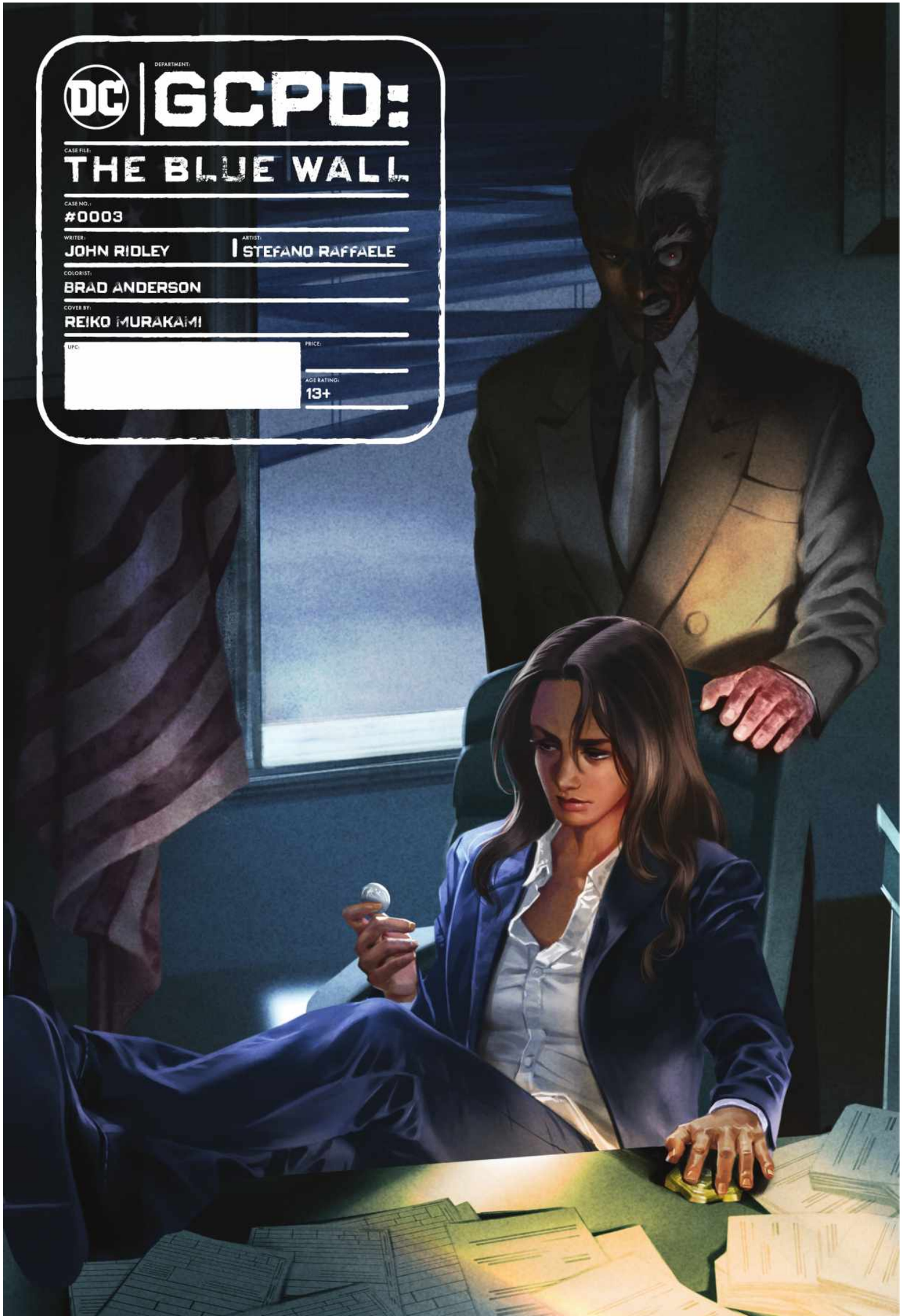
DEPARTMENT:
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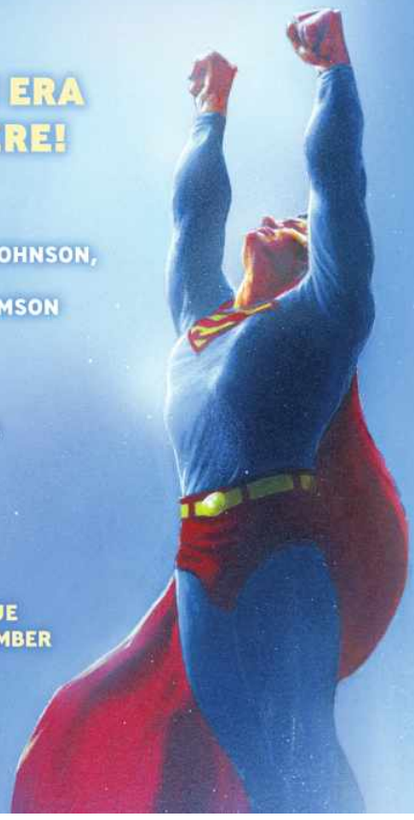
CASE FILE:
THE BLUE WALL
CASE NO.:
#0003
WRITER:
JOHN RIDLEY
ARTIST:
STEFANO RAFFAELE
COLORIST:
BRAD ANDERSON
COVER BY:
REIKO MURAKAMI
UPC:
PRICE:
AGE RATING:
13+

KAL-EL IS BACK ON EARTH—JUST IN TIME FOR LEX LUTHOR TO DELIVER HIS MOST PERSONAL BLOW YET!

SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS #1050

THE NEW SUPERMAN ERA STARTS HERE!



WRITTEN BY
PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON,
TOM TAYLOR,
AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY
MIKE PERKINS,
CLAYTON HENRY,
AND NICK DRAGOTTA

COVER BY
STEVE BEACH

AN OVERSIZE
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
LANDING THIS DECEMBER

COLLECT ALL 27 STUNNING *ACTION COMICS* #1050 COVERS!

INCLUDING:

VARIANT COVERS BY
ALEX ROSS • MIKE PERKINS • SIMONE DI MEO
RAFAEL SARMENTO • JIM LEE • GABRIELE DELL'OTTO
RILEY ROSSMO • RAHZZAH • NATHAN SZERDY AND MORE!

BOOK III: THE NATURE OF FORGIVENESS

Written by John Ridley
Drawn by Stefano Raffaele

This comic contains language and themes of a sensitive nature dealing with bigotry, abuse, addiction, and mental illness. Readers for whom such content is triggering or hurtful should be advised.

"WHATEVER IT TAKES," I TELL MYSELF.

I'M NOT MESSING AROUND. I'M NOT PLAYING.

I TELL ***THEM*** THE SAME THING.

I NEED YOU TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

Colored by Brad Anderson
Lettered by Ariana Maher

WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SURVEIL ***TWO-FACE,*** TO CONNECT HIM TO THE ATTEMPTED HEIST AT ***FOXTECH*** AND THE MURDER OF ONE OF HIS HENCHMEN...

WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE SURE THE CRAZINESS TWO-FACE IS PLANNING DOESN'T SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY: GET IT DONE.

Cover by Reiko Murakami
Variant Cover by Steve Epting

WE'RE STILL INTERVIEWING TWO-FACE'S CREW.

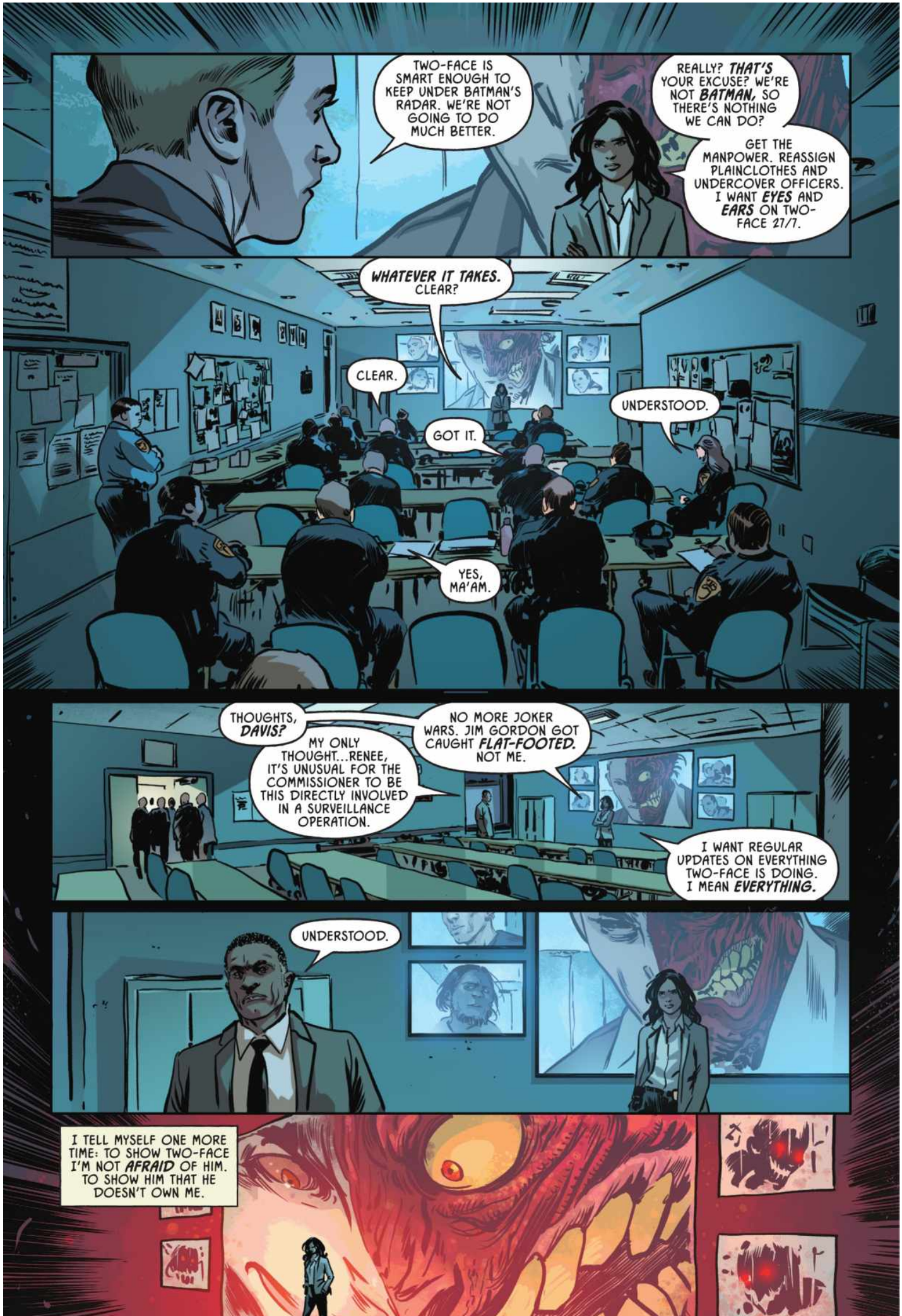
KEEP PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEM. LET THEM KNOW EITHER THEY ***COOPERATE*** OR THEY'RE LOOKING AT HARD TIME AND I'M INSTRUCTING THE D.A. TO ***NOT*** MAKE A DEAL.

Editor :
Arianna Turturro
Group Editor:
Ben Abernathy

WE'VE GOT TWO-FACE'S COMMUNICATIONS ***MONITORED,*** BUT SO FAR WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING THAT CONNECTS HIM TO THE CRIME.

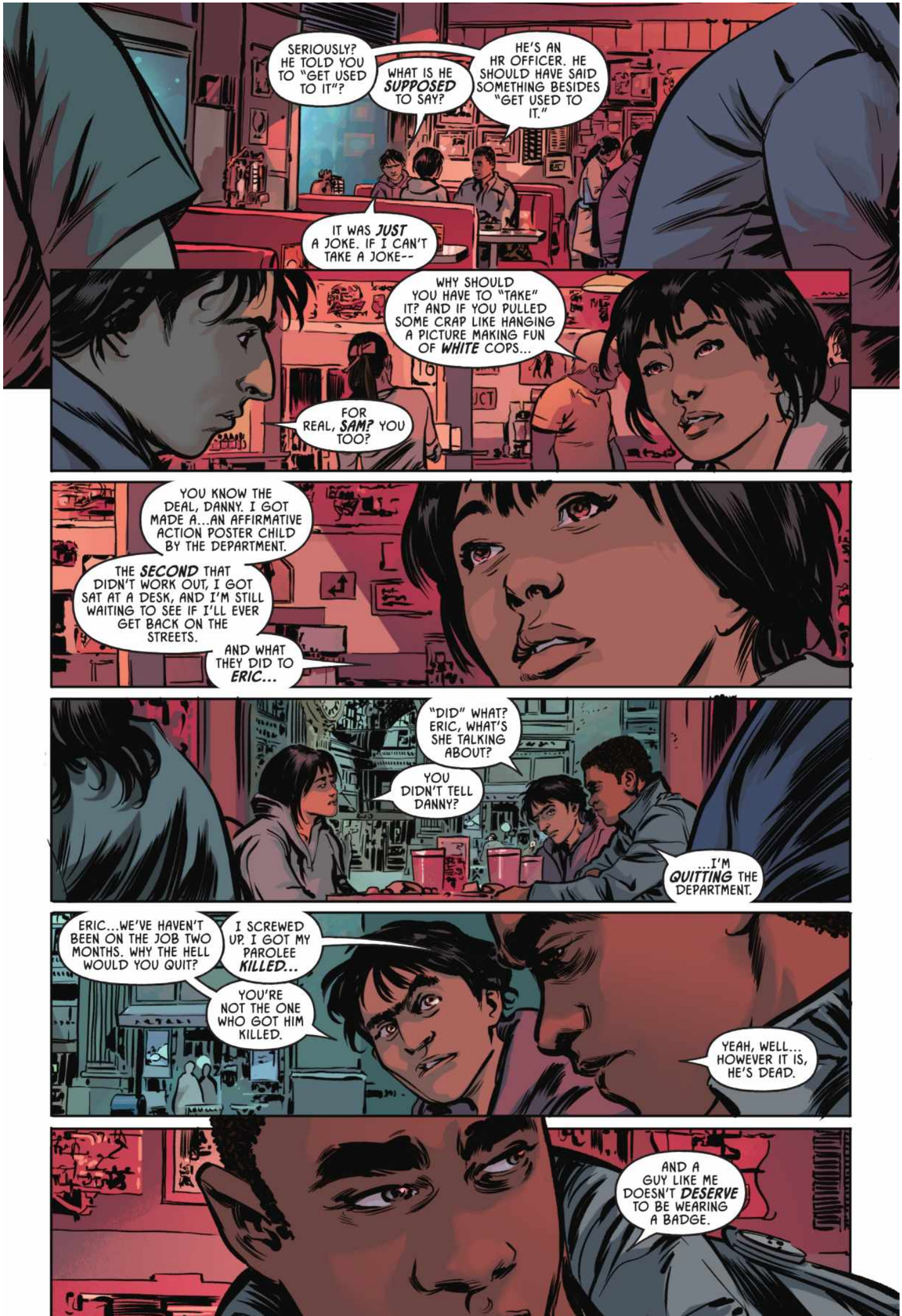
SAME WITH PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE.

This story takes place

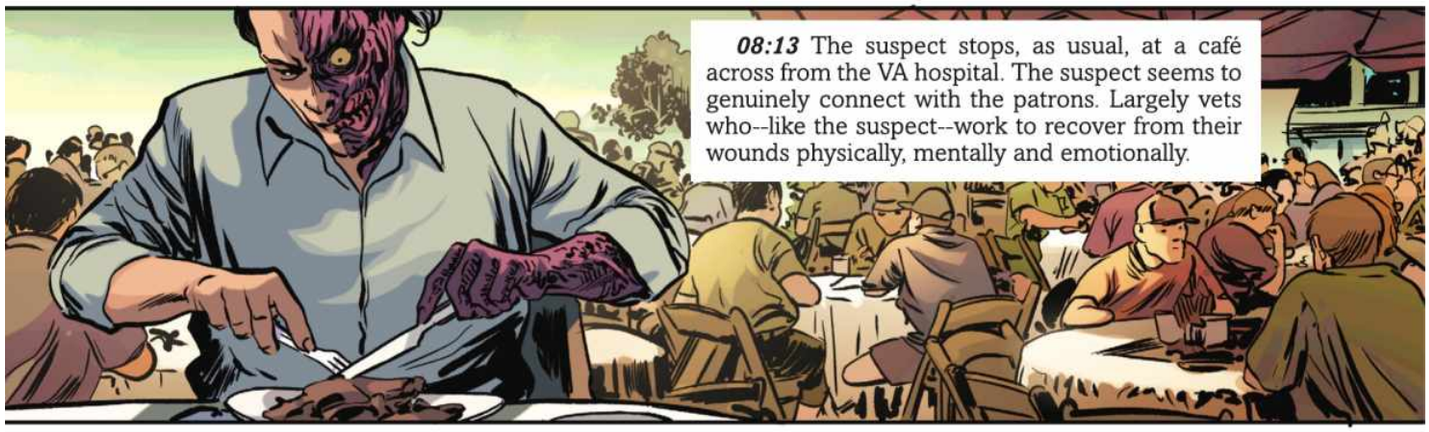

TWO-FACE IS SMART ENOUGH TO KEEP UNDER BATMAN'S RADAR. WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO MUCH BETTER.
REALLY? THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE? WE'RE NOT BATMAN, SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO?
GET THE MANPOWER. REASSIGN PLAINCLOTHES AND UNDERCOVER OFFICERS. I WANT EYES AND EARS ON TWO-FACE 27/7.
WHATEVER IT TAKES. CLEAR?
CLEAR.
GOT IT.
UNDERSTOOD.
YES, MA'AM.
THOUGHTS, DAVIS?
MY ONLY THOUGHT...RENEE, IT'S UNUSUAL FOR THE COMMISSIONER TO BE THIS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN A SURVEILLANCE OPERATION.
NO MORE JOKER WARS. JIM GORDON GOT CAUGHT FLAT-FOOTED. NOT ME.
I WANT REGULAR UPDATES ON EVERYTHING TWO-FACE IS DOING. I MEAN EVERYTHING.
UNDERSTOOD.
I TELL MYSELF ONE MORE TIME: TO SHOW TWO-FACE I'M NOT AFRAID OF HIM. TO SHOW HIM THAT HE DOESN'T OWN ME.

I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
EL GRAN POLICÍA
HAHA HAHAHA HA!
HA HAHAHA HAHA!
HAHAHA HAHA!
HAHA HA!
HA HAHAHA HAHA!
HA HAHA HA!

AND WHAT YOU SAW WAS...
IT WAS A PICTURE OF ME TAPED ONTO A...LIKE A MEXICAN BANDIT, OR SOMETHING.
WERE THERE ANY SLURS ATTACHED TO THE IMAGE?
SLURS?
ANY DEROGATORY COMMENTS?
THEY PUT MY FACE ON A MEXICAN BANDIT.
WHO DID?
I DON'T KNOW WHO. SOMEBODY.
OFFICER ORTEGA, IF YOU'D LIKE TO FILE AN HR COMPLAINT, I WILL ABSOLUTELY HELP YOU FILE ONE.
BUT, HONESTLY, MY EXPERIENCE... LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS--
LITTLE...?
ORTEGA
IT'S A PICTURE ON A BULLETIN BOARD PLACED BY AN UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL. THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHO ACTUALLY DID IT IS TO INTERVIEW EVERY OFFICER WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE BOARD.
EVERY OFFICER.
I'M NOT SAYING WHAT HAPPENED WAS APPROPRIATE, BUT DO YOU WANT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS--
WAIT... ME CAUSE PROBLEMS?
--OVER AN INAPPROPRIATE JOKE? IT'S NOT A GOOD WAY TO START YOUR CAREER. AND UNLESS YOU'RE PLANNING ON RETIRING... STUFF LIKE THIS, IF I WERE YOU...

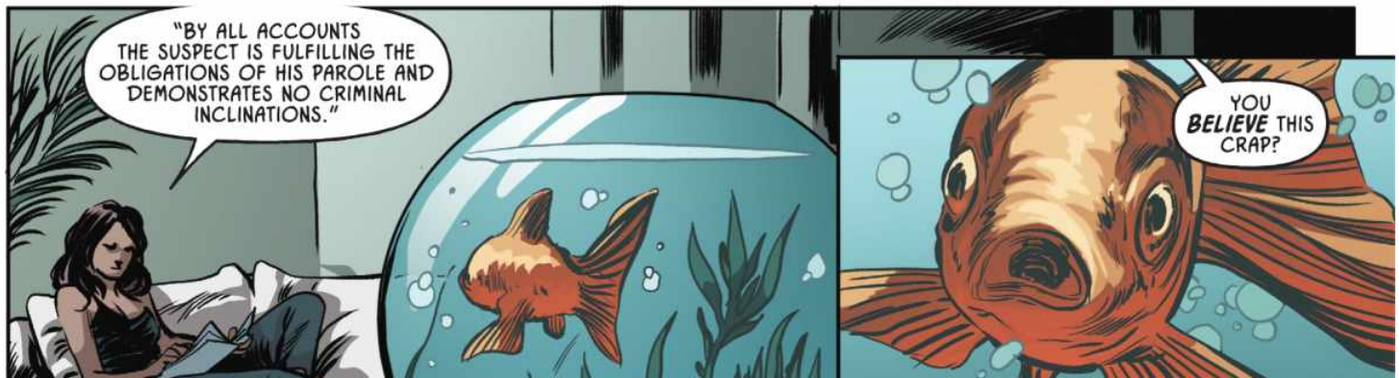

SERIOUSLY? HE TOLD YOU TO "GET USED TO IT"?
WHAT IS HE SUPPOSED TO SAY?
HE'S AN HR OFFICER. HE SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING BESIDES "GET USED TO IT."
IT WAS JUST A JOKE. IF I CAN'T TAKE A JOKE--
WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE TO "TAKE" IT? AND IF YOU PULLED SOME CRAP LIKE HANGING A PICTURE MAKING FUN OF WHITE COPS...
FOR REAL, SAM? YOU TOO?
YOU KNOW THE DEAL, DANNY. I GOT MADE A...AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POSTER CHILD BY THE DEPARTMENT.
THE SECOND THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT, I GOT SAT AT A DESK, AND I'M STILL WAITING TO SEE IF I'LL EVER GET BACK ON THE STREETS.
AND WHAT THEY DID TO ERIC...
"DID" WHAT? ERIC, WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DIDN'T TELL DANNY?
...I'M QUITTING THE DEPARTMENT.
ERIC...WE'VE HAVEN'T BEEN ON THE JOB TWO MONTHS. WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU QUIT?
I SCREWED UP. I GOT MY PAROLEE KILLED...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO GOT HIM KILLED.
YEAH, WELL... HOWEVER IT IS, HE'S DEAD.
AND A GUY LIKE ME DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE WEARING A BADGE.

07:51 The suspect leaves his apartment for the morning. He made no attempt to exit the building during the night and had no visitors.


08:13 The suspect stops, as usual, at a café across from the VA hospital. The suspect seems to genuinely connect with the patrons. Largely vets who--like the suspect--work to recover from their wounds physically, mentally and emotionally.

08:50 The suspect arrives at and begins work on his community service assignment: cleaning trash along roadways.

18:30 The suspect takes part in scheduled group therapy meetings. The suspect engages freely, and listens respectfully through all sessions.


"BY ALL ACCOUNTS THE SUSPECT IS FULFILLING THE OBLIGATIONS OF HIS PAROLE AND DEMONSTRATES NO CRIMINAL INCLINATIONS."
YOU *BELIEVE* THIS CRAP?

NO. NEITHER DO I.
TWO-FACE IS OUT THERE ACTING LIKE HE'S ON THE STRAIGHT.
I KNOW HIM. HE'S PLOTTING, HE'S PLANNING...
OBVIOUSLY HE KNOWS WE'RE WATCHING HIM, BUT HE CAN'T KEEP THE PACE. SOONER OR LATER HE'S GOING TO SLIP UP.
HE'S GOING TO SLIP UP 'CAUSE HE CAN'T TAKE LIVING LIKE HE'S INNOCENT.
Goldfish Flakes
HE CAN'T TAKE LIVING LIKE WHAT HE DID TO ME NEVER HAPPENED.
...BECAUSE IT DID HAPPEN.

EXCUSE ME...
YEAH?
OFFICER PARK. I'M TRANSFERRING... WELL, I'M BEING TRANSFERRED FROM PATROL OVER HERE TO THE ECU.
PARK. YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE EVIDENCE COLLECTION UNIT?
...WE COLLECT EVIDENCE AT CRIME SCENES...
FORENSIC INVESTIGATORS COLLECT EVIDENCE. WE DON'T DO [redacted] BUT STAND AROUND AND MAKE SURE NOBODY TOUCHES ANYTHING UNTIL THE INVESTIGATORS ARE DONE.
THAT'S IT?
THAT'S IT? LEMME TELL YOU SOMETHING: THIS IS THE BEST JOB IN THE ENTIRE PD. NEVER GOTTA DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC, NEVER GOTTA DRAW YOUR WEAPON, AND YOU COLLECT THE SAME PAY AS EVERY OTHER OFFICER.
LIKE BEING A MUSEUM GUARD.
I'VE BEEN DOING THE SAME JOB FOR 19 YEARS. TRUST ME...
PARK
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO WANT ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT.
...YEAH...
"I THINK WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE."

NOT SO MUCH A MISTAKE. IT'S MORE THAT WE'VE ALLOWED THE FACTS TO LEAD US TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION.
TWO-FACE WASN'T BEHIND THE HEIST AT FOXTECH.
WE'VE INTERVIEWED HIS CREW. THEY ALL SWEAR TWO-FACE WASN'T INVOLVED.
THEY'RE SCARED OF HIM.
THE DEVICE THEY TRIED TO STEAL CAN BE USED TO HACK CRYPTOCURRENCIES, BUT IT HAS NO LARGER OR MORE MALEVOLENT PURPOSE.
THAT WE KNOW OF.
THERE'S NO "TWO" INVOLVED IN THE CRIME. TWO-FACE HAS A VERY SPECIFIC M.O.
UNTIL HE DOESN'T. WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME ONE OF THESE PSYCHOTICS LEVELED UP.
HE'S JUST WAITING TO DO BAD [redacted]. AND IF I HAVE TO STOP HIM BY MYSELF, I WILL!

RENEE, IS IT POSSIBLE YOU'RE BRINGING A LEVEL OF BIAS TO THIS INVESTIGATION? TWO-FACE DESTROYED YOUR LIFE.
I'M STILL HERE. I'M THE COMMISSIONER. CLEARLY I'M NOT DESTROYED.
BACK WHEN I WAS JUST A PATROL OFFICER, THERE WAS ONE NIGHT I LET THIS THUG GET THE DROP ON ME. HE TOOK MY GUN, TOOK MY NIGHTSTICK. HE SPENT TEN MINUTES BEATING THE [redacted] OUT OF ME.
THE PHYSICAL ABUSE I COULD HANDLE. BUT THE WAY HE MADE ME FEEL AS AN OFFICER, AS A MAN...
I'M NOT YOU.
NO. YOU'RE NOT. BUT YOU ARE HUMAN.
AND IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN.
I'M NOT SAYING TWO-FACE IS A CHOIR BOY. BUT WITH THIS CRIME, I THINK WE'RE ON THE WRONG TRACK.
YOU PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO REHABBING THE DEPARTMENT'S IMAGE. BEST TO END THE INVESTIGATION NOW BEFORE IT GOES OFF THE RAILS.

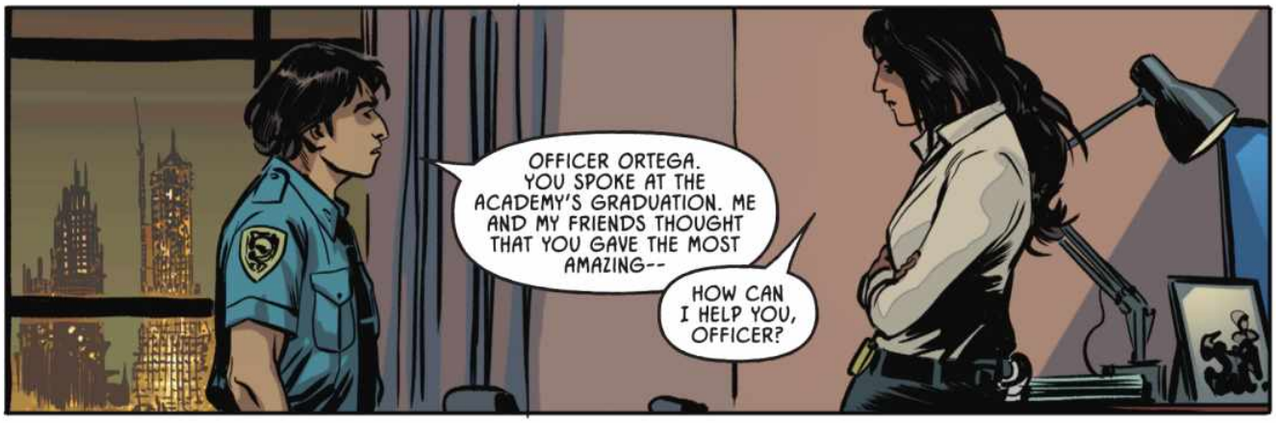
STEVENS...
WHAT'S UP, COMMISH?
THIS TWO-FACE SURVEILLANCE WE'VE BEEN RUNNING...
DAVIS SAYS WE'RE SHUTTING IT DOWN.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SHUT DOWN. BUT I'D JUST LIKE IT TAKEN OFF THE BOOKS.
MEANING...?
MEANING I NEED YOU TO KEEP WATCHING TWO-FACE.
WOULD THIS BE...SANCTIONED? DO WE HAVE A COURT ORDER TO CONTINUE?
THIS IS TWO-FACE. YOU THINK HE'S SITTING AROUND WAITING TO SEE IF WE PLAY THINGS BY THE BOOK?
HE'S STILL GOT RIGHTS. IF WE GET SUBPOENAED, DRAGGED IN FRONT OF A JUDGE, AND WE DON'T HAVE A COURT ORDER...
TWO-FACE IS UP TO SOMETHING. I CAN FEEL IT.
BUT, MA'AM...CAN YOU PROVE IT?
I CAN. IF YOU STAY ON HIM.
...YEAH. OKAY.

...THE HELL?

OH,
...

I TURN AROUND, TWO-FACE IS STANDING THERE...HE SAYS "BOO."
HE LITERALLY SAYS "BOO" TO ME AND THEN STARTS LAUGHING 'CAUSE I'M CRAPPING MY PANTS.
DID YOU FEEL THREATENED?
HE'S TWO-FACE. OF COURSE I FELT THREATENED.
BUT DID HE THREATEN ME...?
HE WAS ALL POLITE. "ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, DETECTIVE? ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU FIND?"
MR. FRICKIN' CONGENIALITY.
WE CAN USE THIS. IF TWO-FACE IS LOOKING FOR YOU, HE WON'T SUSPECT US PUTTING ANOTHER SURVEILLANCE TEAM ON HIM.
COMMISH...
WE'LL START WATCHING HIM--I MEAN WE'LL REALLY START GRINDING HIM UNTIL HE TIPS HIS HAND.
MA'AM...
I'VE GOT NO DOUBT--SOONER OR LATER--TWO-FACE IS GONNA PULL SOMETHING.
BUT... THIS THING WITH FOXTECH ISN'T IT.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO NAIL HIM--
I DON'T WANT TO "NAIL" TWO-FACE. I WANT TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO: TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM.
IF I CAN BE REAL WITH YOU... I THINK RIGHT NOW ALL YOU'RE DOING IS WASTING THEIR TAX DOLLARS.

KNOCK KNOCK
MA'AM... SORRY TO BOTHER. WAS HOPING I COULD HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU ABOUT--
OFFICER...?


OFFICER ORTEGA. YOU SPOKE AT THE ACADEMY'S GRADUATION. ME AND MY FRIENDS THOUGHT THAT YOU GAVE THE MOST AMAZING--
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, OFFICER?

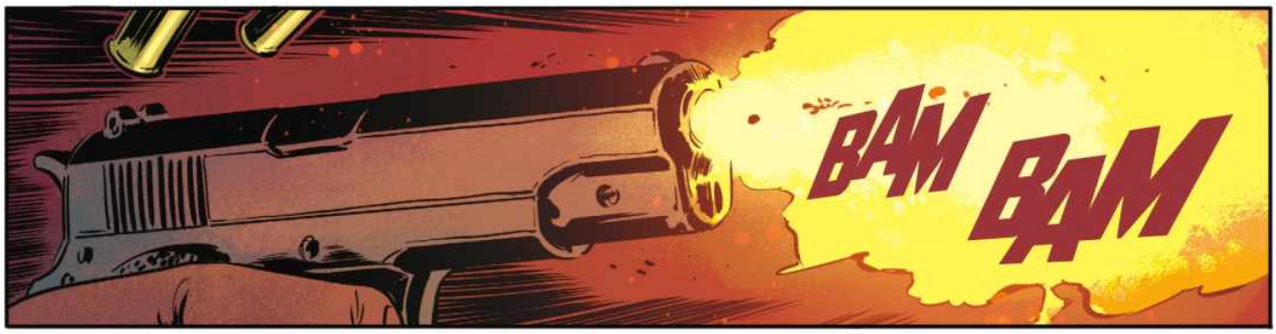
I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE TRICORNER AFTER GRADUATION...
THAT'S A GOOD POST.
IT'S A REAL GOOD POST, BUT...

I'VE RUN INTO A COUPLE OF... NONPOSITIVE EXPERIENCES.
OFFICER, I NEED YOU TO BE MORE EXPLICIT.

THERE WAS A SLUR THAT WAS USED IN MY PRESENCE. MAYBE NOT A SLUR. THERE WAS A DEROGATORY PICTURE OF ME THAT WAS PUT ON A BULLETIN BOARD.
YOU HAD SOME PICTURE OF YOU PUT ON A BOARD? THAT'S IT?
DID IT BLOW UP YOUR LIFE? 'CAUSE I CAN TELL YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE YOUR LIFE BLOWN UP OVER SOMETHING SOMEBODY PUTS ON A BULLETIN BOARD.
...IT WAS OFFENSIVE...
ORTEGA, YOU'RE A COP. EVERYDAY IS A [redacted] SANDWICH. AND BETWEEN BITES, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU GET TO HELP A FEW PEOPLE OUT WHEN YOU'RE NOT GETTING SHOT AT.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT IN THE PD, THEN YOU BETTER LEARN TO PUSH THROUGH...
AND DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

RENEE...
WAIT...I JUST WANT TO TALK.
NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
THIS OBSESSION YOU HAVE WITH ME--
[redacted]YOURSELF, DENT. I'M NOT OBSESSED WITH YOU.
...NOT WITH ME. BUT WITH BRINGING ME DOWN.
YOU'RE A THUG. THAT'S ALL YOU'VE EVER BEEN, THAT'S ALL YOU'RE EVER GONNA

YEAH, WELL... I'M ACTUALLY WORSE THAN A THUG.
YOU SHOWED ME COMPASSION ONCE. RENEE...YOU LITERALLY PUT YOURSELF BETWEEN ME AND BATMAN, AND I...
I COULDN'T RESPOND IN KIND. I DID NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO RESPOND LIKE A HUMAN. INSTEAD, I TOOK YOUR COMPASSION, BASTARDIZED IT, AND RUINED YOUR LIFE.
TRIED TO.
OUT OF ALL THE CRIMES I'VE EVER COMMITTED, THAT WAS THE WORST: TO TAKE THE FAITH OF ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO EVER GAVE A [redacted] ABOUT ME AND DESTROY IT.
I THINK ABOUT THAT EVERY DAY, RENEE. BECAUSE EVERY DAY IT REMINDS ME THAT--SCARRED FLESH OR NOT...
I REALLY AM A MONSTER.
SO, YEAH, AT SOME POINT I'M GOING TO PERPETRATE SOMETHING. AND WHEN I DO... YOU AND I WILL BE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SITUATION, AND IT'LL PLAY OUT HOW IT'LL PLAY OUT.
BUT DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE OBSESSING OVER ME.
I'M NOT WORTH IT.


BAM
BAM

DA HELL, MAN?!
SHE WAS MOVING TOO SLOW.
C'MON. WE GOTTA GET!

LIQUOR & WINE STORE

POLICE! DON'T MOVE!

BAM
BAM
UHHH...

DON'T SHOOT! GOT NO GUN!
I STAND OVER A MAN. I WATCH HIM DIE.
HIS BLOOD ALL OVER THE CONCRETE... I LITERALLY WATCH HIS LIFE POURING OUT OF HIM.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA TOLD ME: "WHATEVER IT TAKES TO DO THE JOB...DO IT."
ALL IT TOOK TO KILL THIS GUY...ALL IT TOOK...
KID...HEY, YOU ALRIGHT?
YEAH. I'M FINE.
HONESTLY? DIDN'T TAKE THAT MUCH AT ALL.

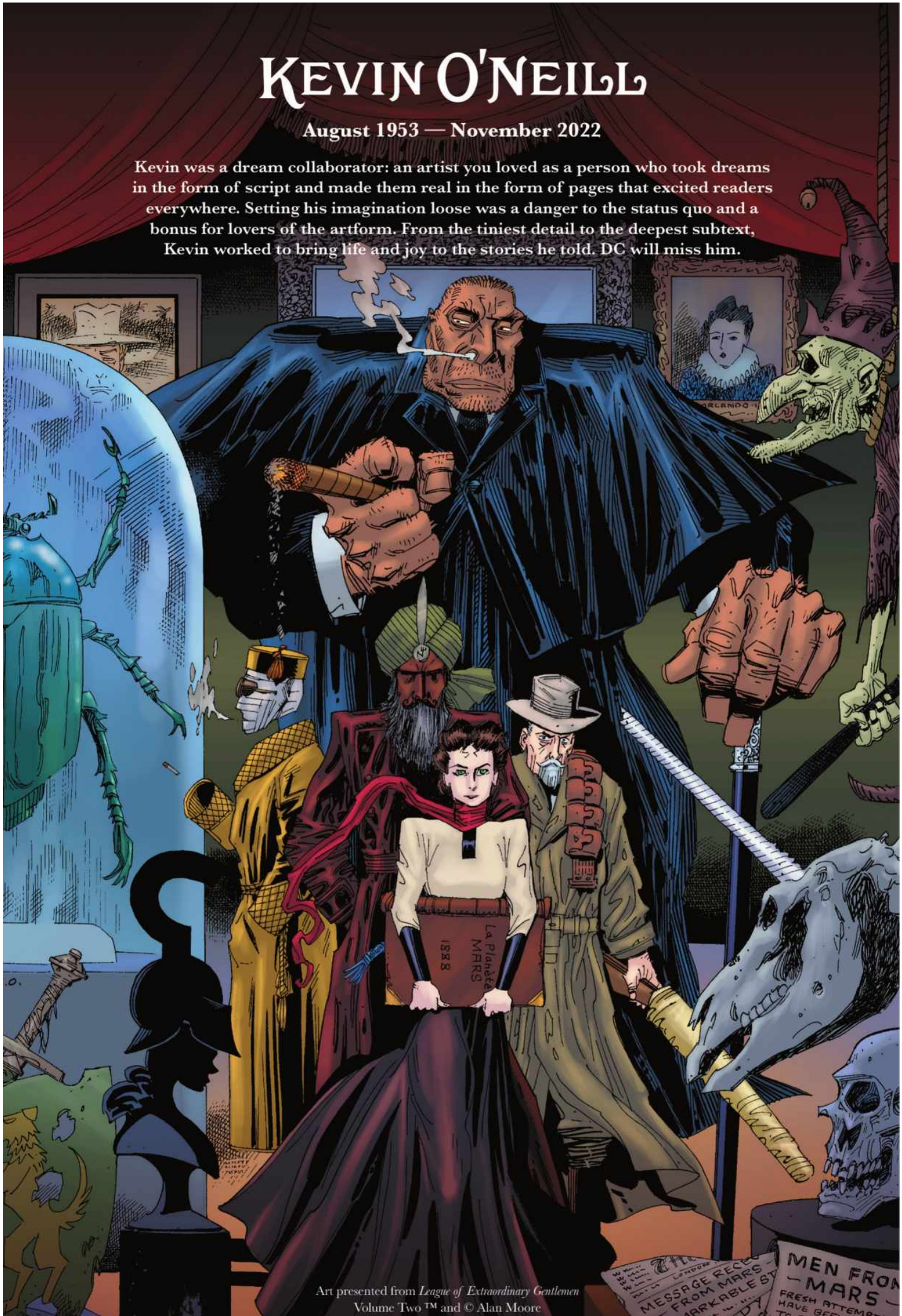
WELL, I MEAN... MY DAD WOULD PROBABLY TELL ME TO DO...SOMETHING. TO STAND UP FOR MYSELF.
BUT IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, THE PICTURE: IT WAS JUST A JOKE... RIGHT?
ORTEGA
WHAT I SAID WAS IF YOU WANT TO PURSUE ACTION, WE WILL.
IF YOU DO, KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO WAR WITH OTHER OFFICERS. ARE YOU READY TO GO TO WAR?
WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST: WRITE THINGS DOWN.
"DOCUMENT EVERYTHING YOU SEE, EVERYTHING YOU HEAR, IN CASE...
"WELL, IN CASE YOU EVER DO WANT TO GO TO WAR."
THE BOOK OF UNDENIABLE TRUTHS.
WHATEVER IT TAKES.

WE ALL DO WHAT WE *HAVE* TO, RIGHT? TO GET THROUGH THE DAY. TO GET THROUGH LIFE.
BUT RIGHT WHEN YOU *THINK* YOU'VE GOT THINGS BEAT.
LIFE THROWS SOME OTHER CRAP AT YOU.
I TELL MYSELF I CAN DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET BY.
BUT I'M REALLY STARTING TO WONDER...
DO I *HAVE* WHAT IT TAKES?
TO BE CONTINUED.

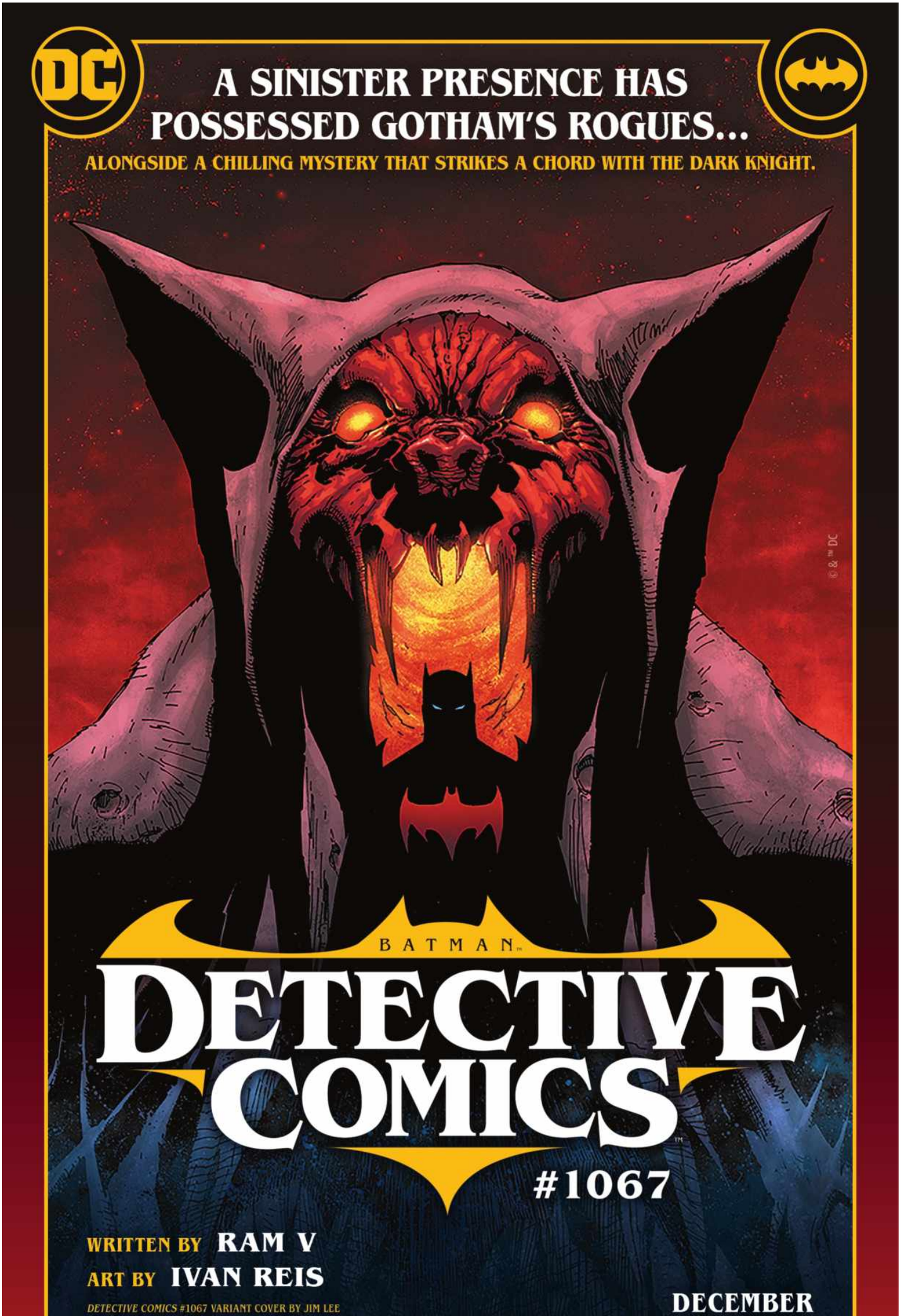
KEVIN O'NEILL

August 1953 — November 2022

Kevin was a dream collaborator: an artist you loved as a person who took dreams in the form of script and made them real in the form of pages that excited readers everywhere. Setting his imagination loose was a danger to the status quo and a bonus for lovers of the artform. From the tiniest detail to the deepest subtext, Kevin worked to bring life and joy to the stories he told. DC will miss him.



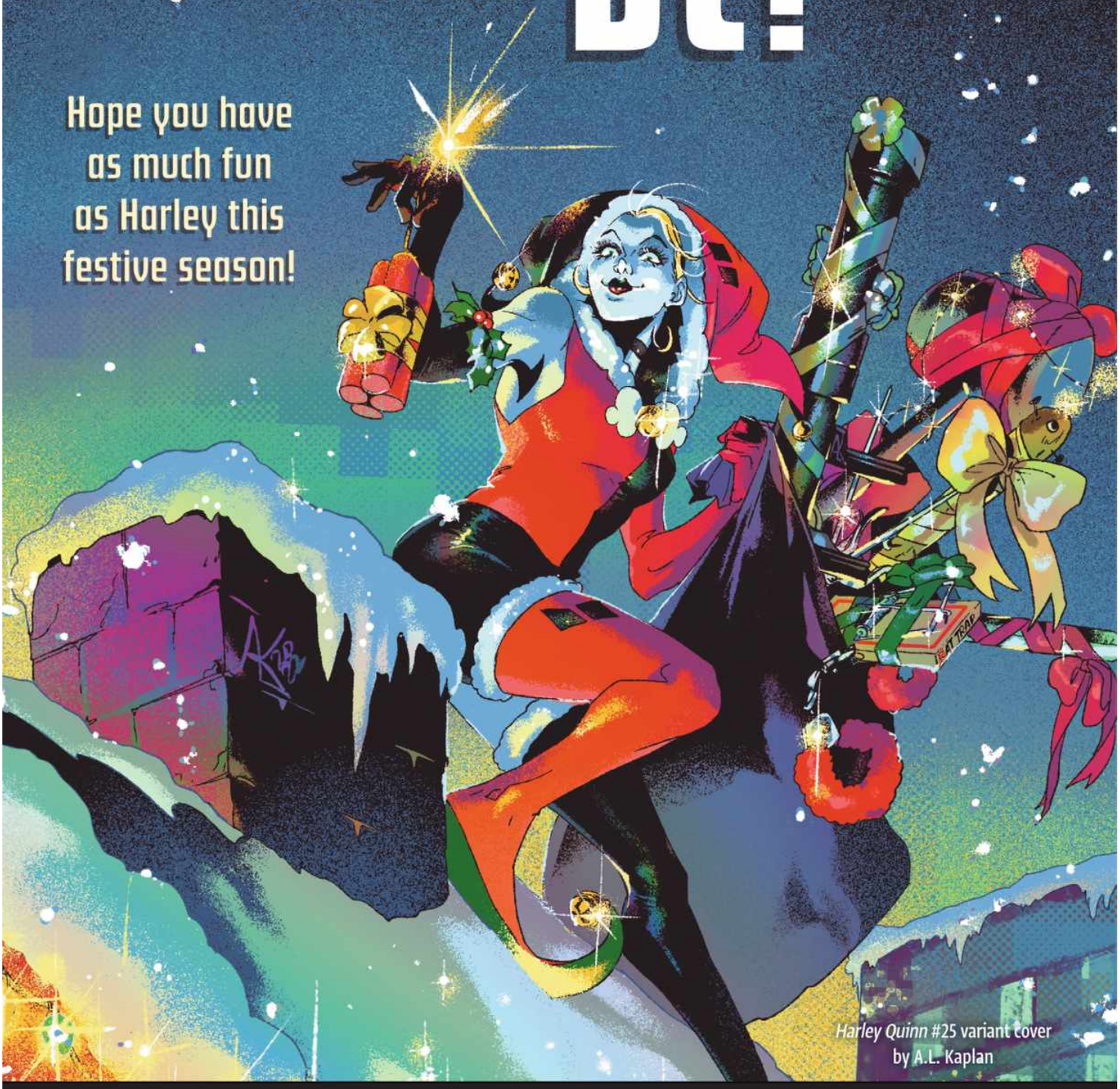
Art presented from *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* Volume Two ™ and © Alan Moore


A SINISTER PRESENCE HAS POSSESSED GOTHAM'S ROGUES...
ALONGSIDE A CHILLING MYSTERY THAT STRIKES A CHORD WITH THE DARK KNIGHT.
© & ™ DC
BATMAN
DETECTIVE COMICS
#1067
WRITTEN BY RAM V
ART BY IVAN REIS
DETECTIVE COMICS #1067 VARIANT COVER BY JIM LEE
DECEMBER

DC NATION HOLIDAY EDITION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM DC!

Hope you have as much fun as Harley this festive season!



Harley Quinn #25 variant cover by A.L. Kaplan

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